973.51
W723

MORNING EXPRESS---EXTRA.

The Windings and Turnings of Martin Van Buren.

THE VAN BUREN JUGGLE.

Of all the public men of our country we have ever given Martin Van Buren the lowest place in our esteem. He is one who owes his political eminence and succes, not to any high quality of mind—not to any brave deeds—not to any generosity of character—not at all; but the source of his success has been cowardly non-committalism and subserviency on the one side, and the use of party machinery and corruption on the other. His advice to "carry the South by falling in with the South, and the North party machinery," lays bare his character. It is a mirror in which he may be seen. He was the father of that powerful combination of corrupt politicians known as the "Albany Regency,"—a combination of political gamblers, who, having the great state of New-York in their hands, as a stake, with its immense patronage and power, could so contrive, and did contrive, to shape the politics of the national administration for years, and to parcel out the offices of power and trust as would best accomplish their object, and repay their tools. Van Buren and his immediate confidential associates were political gamblers, from the beginning, and looked upon and calculated upon candidates and elections as the black-leg does the cards in the pack, and the chances of the game. The Albany Regency politicians, of which Mr. Van Buren was the head, have done more to corrupt the politics of this nation, than all other causes combined. It was one of their number who first broached the doctrine that "to the victors belong the spoils."

Working his way by the aid of the South, whose faithful ally he proved himself, and by the "party machinery" of the Regency, he was in 1836 elected President of the United States. He was nominated for the office in 1835, at Baltimore. In his letter accepting that nomination, he thus speaks of "free soil."

"THE SLAVE QUESTION MUST BE LEFT TO THE CONTROL OF THE SLAVEHOLDING STATES THEMSELVES WITHOUT MOLESTATION OR INTERFERENCE FROM ANY QUARTER; foreign interference of every description, can only be injurious to the slave, without benefit to any interest, and will not be ensured to any section of our country, and ANY INTERFERENCE COMING FROM THE NON-SLAVEHOLDING PORTIONS OF OUR TERRITORY, IS CALCULATED TO ENDANGER THE PERPETUITY, AND, IF SANCTIONED BY THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT, WOULD INEVITABLY OCCASION THE DISSOLUTION OF OUR HAPPY UNION."

During the canvass he wrote several letters, all of which are as southern as could have been written by John C. Calhoun. Among others he wrote a letter to several gentlemen in Jackson, North Carolina. Speaking of the constitutional power of Congress to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, he remarks:

"*I do not hesitate to give it to you as my deliberate and well considered opinion, that there are objections to the exercise of this power,* AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE SLAVEHOLDING STATES, *as imperative in their nature and obligations, in regulating the conduct of public men, as the most palpable want of constitutional power would be.*"

Further on he adds, that if successful at the approaching election,

"*I must go into the Presidential Chair the inflexible and uncompromising opponent of any attempt on the part of Congress to abolish Slavery in the District of Columbia,* AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE SLAVEHOLDING STATES."

And again, not satisfied with the strength of these declarations on that subject, Mr. Van Buren goes on further to say:

"I do believe that the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, *against the wishes of the slaveholding States* (ASSUMING THAT CONGRESS HAS THE POWER TO EFFECT IT,) would violate the spirit of that great compromise of interests which lie at the basis of our social compact; and I am thoroughly convinced, that it could not be so done, WITHOUT IMMINENT PERIL, IF NOT CERTAIN DESTRUCTION TO THE UNION OF THE STATES. Viewing the matter in this light, IT IS MY CLEAR AND SETTLED OPINION, THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO ABSTAIN FROM DOING SO, and that it is the sacred duty of those whom the people of the United States entrust with the control of its action, so TO USE THE CONSTITUTIONAL POWER WITH WHICH THEY ARE INVESTED, TO PREVENT IT."

Well, as we before said, "Free Soil" Martin Van Buren was elected President in 1836; and in his inaugural message he gratuitously proclaimed to the world, that HE WOULD VETO ANY BILL W HICH CONGRESS MIGHT PASS FOR THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. This threat of the veto in advance, was new at that time, and even good Van Buren democrats rebelled against the Kingly mandate. William Leggett, an able writer, for many years assistant editor of the N. Y. Evening Post, thus expressed his opinions of the matter.

"It would seem that we have elected Mr. Van Buren to the office of President, for the mere purpose that he may be the slavemaster in chief and a negro overseer. He pledged himself to exercise his veto power against anything which Congress might do toward the abolition of slavery for the next four years, without even pretending that it was beyond the constitutional competency of that body to act on the subject. This threatened use of the veto, by a man standing on the very threshhold of the executive office, is the most indecent abuse of power of which any American President was ever guilty."

After reading the above, no one can say that the Miller delusion exceeds in absurdity the farce played off at Buffalo, by which Martin Van Buren

TAYLOR PLATFORM.

The Allison Letter.

As much anxiety is felt to see the ALLISON letter, in which Gen. TAYLOR defines his position upon several matters of public intetest to which his attention has been repeatedly called, we republish it. It will be seen that he is explicit upon the points embraced in his letter, and is in favor of the great cardinal principles of the Whig party. Upon the question of harbor and river improvement, he believes in carrying out the wishes of the people as expressed through their representation, and consequently will not as Mr. POLK, has done, interpose the Veto power. nor discriminate between *salt* and *fresh* water improvements:

BATON ROUGE, April 22, 1848.

DEAR SIR: My opinions have recently been so often misconceived and misrepresented, that I deem it due to myself, if not to my friends, to make a brief exposition of them upon the topics to which you have called my attention.

I have consented to the use of my name as a candidate for the Presidency, I have frankly avowed my own distrust of my fitness for that high station; but having, at the solicitation of many of my countrymen, taken my position as a candidate, I do not feel at liberty to surrender that position until my friends manifest a wish that I should retire from it. I will then most gladly do so. I have no private purposes to accomplish, no party projects to build up, no enemies to punish—nothing to serve but my country.

I have been very often addressed by letter, and my opinions have been asked upon almost every question that might occur to the writers as affecting the interests of their country or their party. I have not always responded to these inquiries, for various reasons.

I confess, while I have great cardinal principles which will regulate my political life, I am not sufficiently familiar with all the minute details of political legislations to give selemn pledges to exert my influence, if I were President to carry out this or defeat that measure. I have no concealment. I hold no opinion which I would not readily proclaim to my assembled countrymen; but crude impressions upon matters of policy, which may be right today and wrong tomorrow, are, perhaps, not the best test of fitness for Office. One who cannot be trusted without pledges cannot be confided in merely on account of them

I will proceed however, now to respond to your inquiries.

First—I reiterate what I have so often said—I am a Whig, but not an ultra Whig. If elected I would not be the mere President of a party. I would endeavor to act independent of party domination. I should feel bound to administer the Government untrammelled by party schemes.

Second—The veto power. The power given by the constitution to the Executive, to interpose his veto, is a high conservative power, but in my opinion, should never be exercised except in cases of clear violation of the constitution, or manifest haste and want of consideration by congress. Indeed, I have thought that, for many years past, the known opinions and wishes of the Executive, have exercised undue and injurious influence upon the legislative department of the Government, and for this cause I have thought our system was in danger of undergoing a great change from its true theory. The personal opinions of the individual who may happen to occupy the Executive chair, ought not to control the action of Congress upon questions of domestic policy; nor ought his objections to be interposed where questions of constitutional power have been settled by the departments of government and acquiesced in by the people.

Third—Upon the subjects of the tariff, the currency, the improvement of our great highways, rivers, lakes, and harbors, the will of the people, as expressed through their Representatives in Congress, ought to be respected and carried out by the Executive.

Fourth—The Mexican war. I sincerely rejoice at the prospect of peace. My life has been devoted to arms, yet I look upon war at all times and under all circumstances, as a national calamity, to be avoided if compatible with national honor. The *principle* of our Government as well as its true *policy* is opposed to the subjugation of other nations and the dismemberment of other countries by *conquest*. In the language of the great Washington, "Why should we quit our own to stand on foreign ground?" In the Mexican war our national honor has been vindicated, amply vindicated, and in dictating terms of peace, we may well afford to be forbearing and even magnanimous to our fallen foe.

These are my opinions upon the subjects referred to by you; and any reports or publications, written or verbal, from any source, differing in any essential particnlar from what is here written, are unauthorized and untrue.

I do not know that I shall again write upon the subject of national politics. I shall engage in no schemes, no combinations, no intrigues. If the American people have not confidence in me, they ought not to give me their suffrages. If they do not, you know me well enough to believe me when I declare I shall be content. I am too old a soldier to murmur against so high authority.

Z. TAYLOR.

To Capt. J. S. ALLISON.

BATON ROUGE, (LA.,) July 15, 1848.

SIR:—I have had the honor to receive your communication of June 10th, announcing that the Whig Convention, which assembled at Philadelphia on the 7th of that month, and of which you were the presiding officer, has nominated me for the office of President of the United States.

Looking to the composition of the Convention, and its numerous and patrotic constituency, I feel deeply grateful for the honor it has bestowed upon me, and for the distinguished confidence implied in my nomination by it to the highest office in the gift of the American people.

I cordially accept that nomination, but with a sincere distrust of my fitness to fulfil the duties of an office which demands for its exercise the most exalted ability and patriotism, and which has been rendered illustrious by the greatest names in our history. But should the selection of the Whig

Convention be confirmed by the people, I shall endeavor to discharge the new duties then devolving upon me as to meet the just expectations of my fellow citizens, and preserve undiminished the prosperity and reputation of our common country.

I have the honor to remain,
With the highest respect.
Your obedient servant,
Z. TAYLOR.

To the Hon. J. M. MOREHEAD,
Greensboro, Guilford Co., North Carolina.

MR. FILLMORE'S REPLY.

ALBANY, (N. Y.,) June 17, 1848.

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., by which I am notified that at the late Whig Convention held at Philadelphia, Gen. ZACHARY TAYLOR was nominated for President; and myself for Vice President, and requesting my acceptance.

The honor of being thus presented by the distinguished representatives of the Whig party of the Union for the second office in the gift of the people—an honor as unexpected as it was unsolicited—could not fail to awaken in a grateful heart emotions which, while they cannot be suppressed, find no appropriate language for utterance.

Fully persuaded that the cause in which we are enlisted is the cause of our country, that our chief object is to secure its peace, preserve its honor, and advance its prosperity; and feeling, moreover, a confident assurance that, in Gen. Taylor, (whose name is presented for the first office,) I shall always find a firm and consistent Whig, a safe guide and an honest man, I cannot hesitate to assume any position which my friends may assign me.

Distrusting, as I well may, my ability to discharge satisfactorily the duties of that high office, but feeling that, in case of my election, I may with safety repose upon the friendly aid of my fellow Whigs, and that efforts guided by honest intentions will always be charitably judged, I accept the nomination so generously tendered; and I do this the more cheerfully, as I am willing, for such a cause and with such a man, to take my chances of success or defeat as the electors, the final arbiters of our fate, shall in their wisdom, judge best for the interests of our common country.

Please accept the assurance of my high regard and esteem, and permit me to subscribe myself

Your friend and fellow citizen,
MILLARD FILLMORE.

Hon. J. MOREHEAD,

Barnburner Opinion of Gen. Taylor.

At a Barnburner's State Convention held at Utica last February, at which John Van Buren was most conspicuous, the following resolution was unanimously adopted. We wish our readers would note the language in which it is clothed:

Resolved, That Gen Taylor by his masterly correspondence, with the War Department, no less than by his heroic conduct and indomitable coolnes and courage on the field of battle, has shown himself to be not only a distinguished military chieftain, but a man of great mental and moral power, and whose life has given evidence of a strong head, an honest heart, and a republican simplicity of character.

Hear that noble Statesman and true friend of Liberty, *Thomas Corwin*, of Ohio:

WASHINGTON, 20th July, 1848.

DEAR SIR:—Your letter of the 14th inst. reached me half an hour ago, and I avail myself of my earliest leisure moment, to reply. I have seen in papers from various parts of the country, contradictory conjectures as to the vote of this and that person, and amongst others myself.

I have never doubted as to my duty as a voter, since the nomination was made. It is true I did not wish Gen. Taylor. I preferred others to him. But a Convention of Whigs was called, expressly for the purpose of agreeing upon one of the five or six persons named. I was in favor of that Convention, and as it was fairly conducted, I feel bound to sustain its nominee. Had the man been named that I wished, and the friends of Gen. Taylor had refused to sustain him, I am sure I should feel warranted in charging them with bad faith.—I cannot apply one rule to myself, and a different one to others. Had the Convention named a man who was not a Whig, or who was infamous and unworthy, I should feel in that case, absolved from any obligation to support such a man. But Gen. Taylor does not fall within either of these classes. He is a Whig. He is above suspicion or reproach in his personal character. He has proved himself worthy of every public trust confided to him, and that I think is a reasonable guarranty that he will not fail in this. I know the non-slaveholding States object to Gen. Taylor, that he lives in a slave State and owns slaves.—Did not Mr, Clay live in a slave State? Was not Mr. Clay a slaveholder? Yet we are proud to vote for him, and I would do more and sacrifice more to place him in the Executive chair than I would for any man in America. And so would thousands of the purest and best men in the free States. Thus, this objection is not insuperable, as we have seen. The non-slaveholding states would ask this question: Will the man proposed, (whether he live in a free or slave State,) use his power for the extension of slavery to territory where it does not now exist? On this point what is Gen. Taylor's power? No more, I answer, than yours, unless he should exert it through his veto. Will he do this? I answer, according to his pledges he cannot. He has said in his letter to Captain Allison—"The personal opinions of the individual who may happen to occupy the Executive chair, ought not to control the action of Congress upon questions of domestic policy, nor ought his objections to be interposed where questions of constitutional power have been settled by the various departments of the government, and acquiesced in by the people."

If slavery is extended any where in territories, it must be done by act of Congress. Is it not a question of "domestic policy? Clearly it is.—Has it not been settled that Congress has the constitutional power to prohibit slavery? The Missouri compromise, and various other similar exertions of Congress, recognized by every department of the government, answer this question in the affirmative. All know that this has been "acquiesced in by the people." Thus, then, it is clear that the people, if they wish to restrict slavery to its present limits, have only to elect the proper

men to Congress, and their will will be law, uncontrolled by that much abused veto power. Indeed, the doctrine of Gen. Taylor on the subject of the veto, as laid down in the letter above quoted, (intended for publication and therefore to be considered a pledge) is in my judgment, of more value as a principle, in our system, than any which have been advocated by the Whigs, since the revolution. This despotic power, by its use and abuse, has for the last few years, extended its tyranical grasp to every, even the minutest questions of legislation. It has ranged, uncontrolled, over our whole system of domestic policy, from the establishment of a Bank, down to the erection of a harbor at the mouth of a creek.

Every act of the Congress of a free people, has thus been made to share with the judgment or caprice of ONE MAN. Such a government is an accurate definition of a despotism. It is true, it only continues for four years in one hand, but it is none the less a despotism while it lasts, and if it is to be longer tolerated, will be continual, the only change being the transfer of absolute power, from the hands of one petty tyrant to his successor.—An honest man, as Gen. Taylor is admitted to be, with such opinions and reasonable intelligence, which even his enemies concede, cannot make a bad or dangerous President. I have been asked—how can you, who denounced the Mexican war, vote for its hero? My answer is, to me, plain and obvious: Gen. Taylor was an officer of the regular army. He took his commission when a youth. He contracted to fight when and where his country called, and to obey the orders of his superiors in command. The President was commander-in-chief. He ordered, Gen. Taylor obeyed. He acted as Scott and hundreds of others did. It was, and is the view of their duty, taken by all officers of the army and navy. It is a very different question with volunteers. The government requests—it does not, cannot command—a citizen to volunteer his services, in a foreign war. The government can compel the militia "to repel invasion;" but it cannot force beyond the United States line, a single man, except he is in the regular army.—In a speech, for which I have ever been so much condemned, by men who never read it, I took this distinction. It is too obvious to escape any one, who chooses to think.

I intended to say a word concerning Gen. Cass, but I have not the time, and need not tax your patience further. I will only add that in my judgment his views of public policy are more pregnant with danger to the Republic, than those of any prominent politician ever yet promulgated in this country—and if carried out, as I fear they would be, should he succeed, would be fatal to the happiness of the people, and end in the total subversion of our present form of free government. His wild schemes of wars, of conquest, and unbounded annexation of all neighboring countries, and all sorts of population, are frought with evils, in my judgment, quite too obvious to need illustration, to say nothing of the reckless disregard of rights which they imply. That he entertains these notions sincerely (as I am willing to admit,) only renders him the more dangerous. If he were not in earnest he would only be a demagogue, as might be expected, when such pretences have served the purposes of an election, to change (as he has recently on other subjects) his opinions. Between two such men I cannot hesitate. I know I differ with good men, and good Whigs, but I must obey my convictions of duty, and cheerfully yield to them the same right.

Truly your friend,
THO. CORWIN.

J. M. Clements, Blooming Grove, Ia.

Gen. Taylor's First Letter.

The following is among the earliest, if not the very first Letter which Gen. Taylor wrote in regard to the Presidency. And it contains this distinct and unequivocal avowal:—"*I am a Whig, and shall ever be devoted, in individual opinion, to the principles of that party.*" This declaration is not contradicted, but fully confirmed, in several of his subsequent epistles, and by the current testimony of a hundred living witnesses, Gen. Taylor *is* a Whig, aud devoted to the principles of that party,

Wm. E. Russell, to whom the letter is addressed, is the editor of the New Lisbon (Ohio) Palladium, who publishes the letter in his own paper, as follows:

Headquarters, Army of Occupation,
Matamoras, July 21, 1246.

Dear Sir;—By yesterday's mail I received your letter of the 19th June, and have given the subject to which it refers much serious reflection and consideration. I feel very grateful to you, sir, and to my fellow citizens, who with you have expressed the very flattering desire to place my name in nomination for the Presidency; but it becomes me sincerely and frankly to acknowledge to you that for that office I have no aspirations whatever. Although no politician, having always held myself aloof from the clamor of party politics, I am a Whig, and shall ever be devoted in individual opinion to the principles of that party.

Even the subject which you have in your letter opened to me, were acceptable at any time, I have not the leisure to attend to it now; the vigorous prosecution of the war with Mexico, so important to the interests of my country, demands every moment of my present time, and it is *my great desire to bring it to a speedy and honorable termination.*

With my best wishes for your health and prosperity, I am sincerely yours. Z. TAYLOR,

Wm. E. Russell, Esq. Maj. Gen'l, U. S. A.

John Q. Adams for Gen. Taylor.

Let the Abolition, Cass and "Free Soil" presses slander the character of Gen. Taylor as they may, it gives us much pleasure to lay before our readers the views and opinions of such worthy minds as those of the venerated J. Q. Adams.—The following letter from the Hon. Charles Hudson, (a man whose character is beyond the reach of *suspicion* even,) is the third that has appeared from members of Congress intimate with the great departed, in corroboration of the assertion which has been unjustly questioned. How mortified would the Sage of Quincy be, were he here to witness the conduct of a son who has despised his counsels!

Washington, July 26, 1848.

Sir:—In answer to the inquiry contained in your favor of the 21st inst., I have the honor to

say, that hearing from many of our friends that Hon. John Q. Adams was in favor of Gen. Taylor for the Presidency, I took occasion to introduce the subject of the candidacy in conversation with him, by asking him who the Whigs would run — His answer was Gen. Taylor. I expressed some dissatisfaction at such a nomination, and he replied—*that he preferred him to any other southern man; that he believed him to be the only man who could break down this corrupt administration, and close this miserable war; and would do more to curb the spirit of conquest, and check the spread of slavery, than any man the Whigs could elect* In another conversation with him on this subject, he expressed the same general views, and said that Gen. Taylor as a soldier, was bound to obey the orders of the President, and could not as an honorable man, resign his commission in time of war, when his country wanted his services. These conversations were held with Mr. Adams some time in January, as near as I can recollect.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,
CHARLES HUDSON.

JOHN W. PROCTOR, Esq.

Gen. Taylor's character as drawn by Gen. Persifer F. Smith, a leading Democrat of Louisiana.

Gen. Taylor's military exploits are not the *causes* of his popularity; they are only the *occasions* for the display of sound judgment, energy of character, lofty and pure sense of justice, and incorruptible honesty. He has as much reputation for what he has written as for what he has done, because even where the composition is not his own, the sentiments, motives and feelings are, and everything he says, as everything he does, is marked by the purity and loftiness of his own character.

I have never heard of any one, however corrupt or base himself, that, after five minutes conversation with Gen. Taylor, has dared to propose or even hint at anything dishonest or mean. And no intercourse in the ordinary events of common life can give the true idea of the loftiness of his character. I remember you asked me at the time he was put in command at Corpus Christi, whether he was equal to the circumstances. I told you of his sound judgment and inexhaustible energy as I had learned them in Florida, but I did not then estimate properly the other high points of his character. In the campaign on the Rio Grande, I saw him tried under all circumstances, and he always came out pure gold.

Gen. Taylor's character as drawn by the celebrated Captain BRAGG *of the U. S. Army.*

The citizens of Mobile, on the 4th of July inst., caused a splendid sword to be presented to Captain Bragg, of the United States Army, as an expression of the high estimate of his gallantry and good conduct on the bloody field of Buena Vista. The ceremony took place in the theatre, which was crowded with a fair audience. The presentation speech was made by G. F. Lindsay, and in reply thereto Capt. Bragg said:

For all the success which has attended me in performing these duties, [in the battles of Mexico,] I have been indebted to the confidence and kindness of my commander, and the gallantry and devotion of those who served under me.

Passing by the incidents of Fort Brown and Monterey, to which you have so eloquently alluded, I may be pardoned for saying, in reference to the battle of Buena Vista, that the credit which has been awarded me for the part performed by my command on that occasion, has had its origin in the disinterestedness and generosity of our old chief, who is ever inclined to bestow on others the honor justly due to himself. To Gen. Taylor, and to him alone, belongs all the glory of that achievement. And I but express the universl opinion of those who have served under him, in saying that no other living man could have gained that victory. So great was the confidence reposed in him by his troops, and no other could have commanded it, that his presence on any part of the field was sufficient not only to change despair into hope, but to give assurance of victory, and dispel all doubt of of ultimate triumph.

Gen. Taylor's character as drawn by Col. Jefferson Davis, a Democratic Senator from Mississippi.

Col. Jefferson Davis, who, from the connection existing, is not very likely to be influenced by other than true and proper motives, is represented by the New Orleans papers as having used the following language concerning Gen. Taylor:

After complimenting his fellow companions from other States, he for a moment dwelt upon the virtues of the old hero who had led them all to victory, and to whom they looked up as children to a parent. Col. Davis said that General Taylor had shown himself the distinguished soldier of the age, yet he was equally remarkable for his kindness of heart and simplicity of his habits, his strong judgment and excellent sense. He alluded to that hour of the battle of Buena Vista, when the day seemed, if not lost, to be going against our arms, when Gen. Taylor, amidst the thickest of the iron hail, rode upon the plateau, and calmly surveyed the scene. Vast as were the consequences of that hour, he appeared to fear no danger, expect no harm. The excitement of the carnage over, the same soul that could remain unmoved when his friends were falling like leaves around him, who could look unblanched upon the front of the thundering artillery, became the poor soldier's most sympathising friend: and the eye, so stern in battle, was as mild as the tender-hearted matron's.

Gen. Taylor's character as drawn by the Hon. John M. Clayton, Senator of the U. S. from Del.

The Hon. gentleman, (Mr. Senator Foot, of Mississippi,) also attacks Gen. Taylor on the ground that he lacks qualifications. In justice, however, to his own noble heart, the Senator admits that Gen. Taylor is a pure, honorable, high-minded, and patriotic man. But he finds fault with Gen. Taylor on account of what he supposes to evince a want of great learning. He reasons from General Taylor's confession that he was not a politician, that he is not competent for the Presidency. That is, I think, his chief objection. The gentleman certainly did also find much fault with one or two of Gen. Taylor's letters. I shall not deny that his letters, like those of other great military commanders, written in the hurry of a camp, and on a barrel, a box, or a drum-head, have not the beauty of finish and the rotundity of period which the gentleman so well knows how

to give to his own letters. But for strong sense and appropriate language to convey it, no man can excel those of Taylor, in which he found it important to attend to the manner as well as the matter of his composition. We laugh at the story that Gen. Taylor cannot write his letters.—That from their enemies is a new tribute to their excellence! Gen. Cass is, we admit, a knowing and a learned man; but General Taylor is a *wise* man. I agree with the poet, that

"Knowledge and wisdom far from being one,
Have oft-times no connection. Knowledge dwells
In heads replete with thought of other men—
Wisdom in minds attentive to their own."

Gen. Cass has great erudition, and has written books. But in the essential qualities of wisdom, justice, integrity, humanity. and moral as well as physical courage, Taylor approaches nearer to the character of Washington than any man who has occupied the Presidential chair since his day. And with regard to the champion of the gentleman from Connecticut, (Mr. Niles,) who has indulged himself in a sly fling at General Taylor, I will give my opinion with equal frankness. Mr. Van Buren is a cunning man, and it has often been observed, that no cunning man was ever yet a wise one. Exception is taken to Gen. Taylor's qualifications, because he has been compelled, in his country's service, to pay more attention to the cartridge than the ballot box; and in his letters has modestly expressed his diffidence of his ability to discharge the duties of President of the United States. But let me call the attention of the Senate to what Gen. Washington said of himself in his inaugural address. He says to Congress:

"The magnitude and difficulty of the trust to which the voice of my country called me, being sufficient to awaken in the wisest and most experienced of her citizens a distrustful scrutiny into his qualifications, could not but overwhelm with despondency one, who, in inheriting inferior endowments from nature, and unpractised in the duties of civil administration, ought to be peculiarly concious of his own deficiencies."

Taylor is the man of modern times who has rivalled this admirable modesty, and his friends so far from regarding it as a fault, view it as one of the brightest among the features which adorn his heroic character.

General Taylor's Brevity.

HEAD QUARTERS, ARMY OF OCCUPATION.
Near Buena Vista, February 22, 1847.

SIR: In reply to your note of this date, summoning me to surrender my forces at discretion, I beg leave to say that I decline acceding to your request.

With high respect, I am, sir,
Your obedient servant,
Z. TAYLOR,
Major General U. S. Army, commanding.

Senor Gen. D. ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA,
Commander-in-Chief, La Encantada.

General Taylor's character as drawn by the Rev. Mr. Lamb, one of his Chaplains.

At the conference of the Congregational and Presbyterian ministers of Hillboro' county, N. H., assembled on the 14th of June, the Rev. Mr. Lamb, who was formerly a chaplain in the army under Gen. Taylor, at Fort Jessup, said that the opening for him to do good in the army was through Gen. Taylor, and that through the General's influence a temperance society was formed, by means of which 600 drunkards were reformed; that the General told him that it was all a sham for a man to pretend that he could not stand the damps and heats of the South without spirituous liquors. Gen. T. was a total abstinence man; and the only commanding officer who did not drill his troops on the Sabbath. Mr. Lamb also stated that Gen. T. attended his church regularly, and used no profane language. Mr. Lamb closed by saying that he was no politician, nor did he wish his remarks to be viewed in a political light; he merely made them to show the way for doing good by tracts, by the temperance cause, and by the preached word was opened by Gen. Taylor.

General Taylor's character as drawn by the Rev. Mr. Hart, pastor of the Congregational Church, North Haven, Conn.

We have seen an officer, whose name was almost unknown, who at the early age of eighteen entered the army of the United States as a lieutenant of infantry, who, in the war of 1812, and in the Florida campaigns, displayed the qualities of heroic daring and soldierly science, which have since been matured to a perfect devolopment, taking the foremost positions among the Captains of this or any other age. Brave in the hour of danger, humane in the moment of victory, kind and courageous in the various scenes of his warrior-life, he posseses the qualities which attract the attention and demand the admiration of mankind. Plain almost to an excess, in his manners and costume, he still commands the homage and confidence of his troops. Impressed with the sentiment of his *own* invincibility, they never waver in the fiercest conflicts, and under his guiding genius fresh recruits bear to the battle field the cool courage and unawed spirit of veterans. In the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, along the blazing lines of Monterey, and amid the bloody and terrific scenes of Buena Vista, he still displays the same fruitfullness of resource and energy in action, which distinguished the great commander. His brilliant victories have been heralded through the land, and the name, which nineteen months ago was hardly known and hardly uttered, has been heard on every lip, and uttered with all the familiarity of a household word.